

Application No. 10/029,350
Docket No. 13DV-14197
Amendment dated August 9, 2004
Reply to Advisory Action of August 3, 2004

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner reviewed remaining claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that Applicants' amendments presented in their response of July 5, 2004, were not entered on the basis that the claim amendments "raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search" because

claim 7 has not been fully incorporated into claim 1 (proposed claim 1 is considerably broader than previous claims 1 and 7 combined), [and] claim 18 has not been fully incorporated into claim 13.

In response, Applicants believe that the above amendments to claims 1 and 13 incorporate all limitations of their dependent claims 7 and 18, respectively. As with their response of July 5, 2004, because the Examiner did not attribute any patentable weight to the limitation introduced into claim 1 by Applicants' amendment filed January 8, 2004, claim 1 has been amended to revert to the "consisting essentially of" clause with which it was originally filed. Because this limitation had been added by amendment, claim 1 as now pending is not broader than combined claims 1 and 7 as originally filed.

Finally, Applicants apologize for their misinterpretation of the Office Action of April 8, 2004, wish to note that the amendments to claims 1 and 13 presented in their response of July 5, 2004, strictly complied with the express statement of the grounds


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for allowability of claims 7 and 18. On the basis of the last paragraph on page 6 of the April 8 Office Action, Applicants fairly concluded that the independent claims would be allowable over the prior art of record if amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter (as opposed to *all* subject matter) of claims 7 and 18.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the above amendments place independent claims 1 and 13 and their remaining dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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